

REMARKS

Applicants' Attorney wishes to thank Examiner Baker for the courtesy extended during the interviews of October 19, 1994 in which the issues of the present application were discussed. It was agreed during the interview that amending the claims as suggested by the Examiner in paragraph 3 of the Office Action would not only overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection but also cause the claims to recite features not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. In other words, place the claims in "allowable condition". It is understood that such amendments made to the claims would more clearly describe that in the present invention the magnitude of the internal supply voltage changing at the second rate is larger than that of the internal supply voltage changing at the first rate, that the internal supply voltage changing at the third rate enables testing of the load circuits and that the magnitude of the internal supply voltage up to the third rate becomes larger without decreasing as the magnitude of the external supply voltage increases. Further it is understood that these features are not taught or suggested by Alaspa or any of the other references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

This Amendment amends the claims as suggested by the Examiner in the June 17, 1994 Office Action. Therefore, in light of the discussions held during the interview and the agreements reached the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection

of claims 7, 9-11, 13, 15, 17-23 and 25-70, the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 7, 9-11, 13, 15, 17, 18 and 20-70 as being unpatentable over Alaspa and the 35 USC §103 rejection of claims 69 and 70 as being unpatentable over Alaspa in view of Takanishi has been overcome by this Amendment and should be withdrawn.

Entry of this Amendment and allowance of the present application as indicated by Examiner Baker is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. section 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 501.20699VC2) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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